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BILLINGE-AND-WINSTANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

of

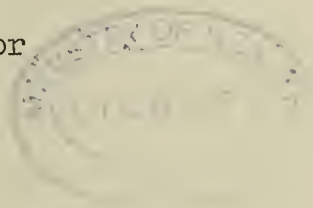
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

for

1953.



J.S. MATHER.

Medical Officer of Health.

C. BROWN.

Sanitary Inspector.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR
THE YEAR 1953.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BILLINGE-AND-WINSTANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my twenty-second Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of your district in 1953.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	-	4,596
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid 1953	-	5,915
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1953, according to the rate book	-	1,768
Rateable Value	-	£25,034
Sum represented by a penny rate	-	£100

No industrial development took place during the year, the staple industries as formerly being coal mining, agriculture, brick and terra cotta manufacture and stone quarrying. Employment was relatively full and the social status correspondingly well preserved. The expansion of St. Helens and Wigan has transformed to a more suburban character the aspect of certain rural parts of the area. Two large populous centres are thus converging rapidly in our village. The ultimate effect needs no amplification from me

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	59	32	27
Illegitimate	2	1	1
	<hr/> 61 <hr/>	<hr/> 33 <hr/>	<hr/> 28 <hr/>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population of the district	-- crude	10.3
	adjusted	11.9

Other live birth statistics, introduced for the purpose of comparison.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Live births in district during 1952.	80	36	44

Live birth rate for 1952. 15.6

Live birth rate for England and Wales in 1953. 15.5

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Still Births.			
Legitimate.	4	2	2
Illegitimate.	1	-	1

Rate per 1,000 total (Live and still) births. 76

Rate per 1,000 (Live and still) births in England and Wales. 22.4

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Deaths.	262	129	133

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. crude 44.3
(adjusted) 45.2

Death rate for district in 1952. 12.6

Death rate for England and Wales in 1953. 11.4

It will be observed that the number of deaths assigned to the district and the resultant death rates are exceptionally high by comparison with the preceding years and with the general rate for the Country. This inflation arises from the introduction on January 1st. 1953, of new methods of assignment in accordance with the "Memorandum of Transfers of Births and Deaths," whereby 207 deaths in the chronic sick and mental wards of Billinge Hospital are treated as local. Completely fallacious figures are thus deduced from our own point of view which are not comparable and bear no resemblance to the community circumstances at all.

Deaths. Death rate per
1,000 total live
and still births.

Deaths from Puerperal causes.

Puerperal and post abortive sepsis. Nil. Nil.

Other maternal causes. Nil. Nil.

Death rate of infants under one year of age.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Death of infants under one year of age.			
Legitimate.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Illegitimate.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

All infants per 1,000 live births. Nil.

Number of deaths per 1,000 live births in district in 1952. 75

Number of infantile deaths per 1,000 live births in England and Wales in 1953. 26.8

Death rate of infants under one year of age. (Cont'd.)

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).			Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).			Nil.

Neo-Natal Mortality.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age.			
Legitimate.	-	-	-
Illegitimate.	-	-	-

Mortality rate per 1,000 live births. Nil.

Respiratory Tuberculosis.

Mortality rate. Nil.

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

(a) Laboratory facilities.

Pathological Specimens - submitted to Wigan Infirmary.

Bacteriological Examinations carried out at Liverpool City Laboratories. Number of samples taken - Nil.

Chemical Analysis carried out at the Liverpool City Laboratories. Number of samples taken - Nil.

(b) Ambulance facilities.

(1) For all general purposes ambulances and cars are still provided from the Wigan Fire Brigade and Ambulance Station (Telephone Wigan 6202). The service has been prompt and efficient during the year. Other arrangements by the County Council including the erection of a Station in the district to cover a wide County area are pending.

(2) For infectious cases the ambulance attached to the hospital concerned is used.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

The District Nurse continued to render excellent service during the year under the direction of the Divisional Medical Officer of Health. Tribute must again be paid to her unremitting zeal and her constant co-operation with the Medical Practitioners, by whom her work is especially appreciated.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres. No change.

(e) Hospitals.

The all embracing provisions of the National Health Scheme continued to extend the scope of hospitals available to local patients. Nevertheless, the majority receive their treatment, whether as in-patients or out-patients, at one of the hospitals in the Wigan and Leigh Group. A minority go to the St. Helens hospitals. Special cases have treatment in Manchester or Liverpool hospitals. Infectious cases requiring hospital isolation are usually transported to Whelley.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

(1) Water.

Established with a measure of security by the daily supply of 150,000 gallons from Liverpool, our anxieties nevertheless continue as demand increasingly exceeds the supply. The following figures reflect the problem confronting us:-

Water supplied to district.

	<u>1952.</u>	<u>1953.</u>
Liverpool.	53,233,000 galls.	57,742,000 galls
Wigan.	7,570,000 galls.	4,510,000 galls
Cob Moor.	440,000 galls.	1,271,000 galls
Higher Tunnel.	59,000 galls.	42,000 galls
Total.	61,306,000 galls.	63,565,000 galls
Average daily consumption of district.	167,502 galls.	174,150 galls
Average daily consumption per individual.	28.4 galls.	29.4 galls
Average daily supply from Liverpool.	158,200 galls.	

It is apparent that the district is increasingly dependent on the Liverpool supply and already to an extent exceeding the daily quota by more than eight thousand gallons. In consideration of this, an approach was recently made to the Liverpool Authority as to the possibility of a revised agreement to regularise the excess. But Liverpool could not commit themselves further, having regard to their own increasing requirements and the widespread calls from other areas in the same predicament, all of whom have had to be refused. Thus restricted, we are endeavouring to practise every economy, meanwhile exploring again the only possibility of a local supply to cope with the inevitable increment from building development and conversions in the future. Eventually, we anticipate the problem will be dealt with fundamentally on a regional scale as part of a National Scheme. Until then, however, our position will remain precarious and difficult.

No examination of the water, either chemical or bacteriological, was undertaken during the year. Eight houses were still unprovided from the public mains at the end of the year -- one less than formerly as one house was destroyed by fire. An extension of the main along Rainford Road to Red Barn Lane has reduced this number, at the time of writing, by a further six houses so that only two now remain isolated.

(2) Drainage and Sewerage.

Conditions at both the Sewage Disposal Grounds are still intolerably obnoxious and the boundary streams are choked with sludge. At the Lime Vale site, the course of the stream has become diverted in consequence and some loss of arable land has been sustained by a farmer. Liability is being assessed. Meanwhile, complaints from the Rivers Board emphasize a state of affairs of which we are only too

Drainage and Sewerage (Cont'd.)

familiar. At last, however, the Council can claim to be taking active measures, costly though they are bound to be, to abate the nuisance. Schemes are in preparation by a firm of Civil Engineering Contractors for presentation and sanction. With regard to the Northern Sewage Field, we can expect no hitch as there is no available alternative. In the Southern area, however, we have the obligation of demonstrating the advantage of a self contained Scheme as against a conjoint arrangement with St. Helens. Sufficient to say in this connection that we shall at least know the extent of our commitments whatever they be from the first if we remain self sufficient. The risk of exposing future generations in the district to arbitrary terms is involved in the alternative.

The isolated and remote hamlet at Kings Moss containing about 200 persons inaccessible from the general sewerage system, remains a problem for future consideration. Fortunately, no development aggravates the situation at present.

(3) Rivers and Streams.

There is no industrial pollution of any watercourse in the district. Allusion has already been made to the contamination from the Sewage Fields.

(4) Sanitary Accommodation.

A grant of £7, or half the cost, whichever is the less, is made towards the conversion to a W.C. Thirty-one privy middens were converted during the year.

The progress towards the complete elimination of privy middens from the district is still embarrassed by the shortage of water and the inadequacy of the sewage disposal facilities. Nevertheless, the worst cases are systematically dealt with.

Closet Accommodation at the end of 1953.

No. of privy middens.	196.
No. of closets attached to these middens.	292.
No. of pail closets.	4.
No. of dry ashpits (excluding middens).	2.
No. of moveable ashbins.	1,171.
No. of houses on water carriage system.	1,324.
No. of fresh water closets.	1,640.
No. of waste water closets.	Nil.

(5) Public Cleansing.

Street scavenging and the weekly removal of house refuse was carried out by the Local Authority as previously. Privy middens are also emptied regularly. Tipping continued on selected and controlled sites, there being no destructor in the district. Paper is collected separately for salvage.

(6) Shops.

The Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences and the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e. ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc. are administered by the County Council. The Sanitary Inspector visits all premises included within the meaning of the Acts, and reports to the County Council.

(7) Sanitary Inspection of Area.

(Vide Sanitary Inspector's Report.)

(8) Smoke Abatement.

There are 5 factory and works chimneys in the district and 15 observations were made during the year. The time limit for the emission of black smoke is two minutes in the hour. No infringement was observed in the year.

(9) Swimming Baths and Pools.

None - Public or private in this district.

(10) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

The routine disinfection of the household goods of those transferring to new Council Houses is not a practice in this district. The Council's resolution will only permit disinfection where the need is patent. No such instance arose in the year. The method employed, where necessary, is spraying with insecticide and fumigation with sulphur.

(11) Schools.

A notable addition in this section is the newly completed Upholland Grammar School situated in Winstanley. Every modern conception has been incorporated in the construction and layout, and, of course, nothing is left to be desired from the sanitary point of view. The school, which is co-educational provides accommodation for 550 pupils.

The sanitary condition of the other two schools in the district remained satisfactory and the provisions are generally adequate though dining facilities for the school meals service leave much to be desired. Infectious sickness was not appreciable and the attendance was well maintained.

(12) Offensive Trades.

There are none in the district.

(13) Common Lodging Houses.

There are none in the district.

(14) Canal Boats.

There are none in the district.

SECTION D.

Housing.

The Claremont Housing Estate is approaching completion. At the time of writing, the final batch of 28 houses are under construction. The completed Estate will comprise the following:-

2 Bedroomed Houses	- 58.
3 Bedroomed Houses	- 92.
Bungalows	- 8.

Discussions are now proceeding with regard to subsequent building development. No selection of site has yet been made, but the choice rests between three sites in the Higher End of the district. The inclusion of flats in future types has also been under consideration and has much to recommend it, especially in the interests of the elderly.

Housing (Cont'd.)

Overcrowding is revealed to be reduced by comparison with the previous year when 51 cases involving 84 families and 308 persons were recorded. Most of the worst cases have now been accommodated and attention has been focussed increasingly on slum clearance. In this connection, a considerable amount of work lies ahead, and it is difficult to know where to make a start. But where overcrowding co-exists, this perplexity is automatically resolved.

The prevailing defects in the older houses are generally dampness, faulty roofs and perished woodwork. Where restoration is possible, this is to be encouraged in accordance with the recent provisions and directives from the Ministry of Health. The moderate rental is the redeeming feature in this kind of property, in contrast with the new houses where the concern is that an economic limit is being reached with respect to certain incomes.

Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

(1)	By the Local Authority	-	26.
(2)	By other Local Authorities	-	Nil.
(3)	By other bodies or persons	-	24.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	56.
	(b)	Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose.	114.
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.	Nil.
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	Nil.
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	Nil.
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	56.

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.	50.
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Action under statutory powers during the year:-

- (1) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs. Nil.
 - (b) Number of dwelling houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit:-
 - (i) By Owners. Nil.
 - (ii) By local authority in default of Owners. Nil.
- (2) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
- (a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 6.
 - (b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
 - (i) By Owners. 6.
 - (ii) By local authority in default of Owners. Nil.
- (3) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. Nil.
 - (b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. Nil.
- (4) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- (a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. Nil.
 - (b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. Nil.

Housing Act, 1936 - Overcrowding.

- (1) (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. 38.
(b) Number of families dwelling therein. 65.
(c) Number of persons dwelling therein. 230.
- (2) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year. 14.
- (3) (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. 21.
(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases. 124.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

There were 53 Cowkeepers (including dairy farmers) and 13 Milk Purveyors (other than Cowkeepers) on the register. Dealers Licences were issued in respect of 6 Suppliers of Tuberculin Tested milk, 6 Suppliers of Accredited milk and 6 Retail Distributors of Pasteurised and Sterilised milk.

The Lancashire County Council undertake the duties of sampling in the area.

(b) Meat and other foods.

There is no slaughter house within the district. All shops, stalls and vehicles where food is prepared were inspected but no cause for complaint was found, and no infectious disease was reported in connection with persons dealing with such food. The inspection of locally slaughtered animals is the duty of the Sanitary Inspector who includes in his report an account of the work.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other diseases:--

Measles was again the predominant infectious disease, continuing through the first half of the year, the epidemic prevailing in the last quarter of 1952. Whooping cough was a concomitant feature. The epidemic subsided abruptly and only two measles notifications were received in the second half of the year.

Scarlet Fever was of sporadic incidence and mild type. The two cases of Food Poisoning were local manifestations of widespread outbreaks emanating from the Preston locality.

The Puerperal Pyrexia notifications were received from Billinge Hospital.

Diphtheria immunisation conferred protection on an increasing percentage of the child population. Prejudice and antagonism are not now so pronounced and 71 pre-school children and 40 school children received the full course of primary prophylaxis while 101 children were given the secondary reinforcing injection. The influence of the Infant Welfare Clinic in promoting this has been paramount and credit is due to the Medical and Nursing staff acting under the direction of the Divisional Medical Officer of Health. Liaison with local Medical Practitioners was well maintained.

No immunisation against the Enteric Group was undertaken during 1953.

No local action has been taken with regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation of the illness.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1953 (AFTER CORRECTIONS).

Notifiable Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.											Total Deaths.	Hospital.	
	Total cases at all ages.	Age Periods - Years.											Total Cases Removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hos- pital of persons belong- ing to the District.
		0	1	3	5	10	15	25	45	65 & over.	Age Unknown.			
Scarlet Fever.	8	-	-	-	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles (excluding rubella).	44	-	8	18	17	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	10	-	3	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia (primary & influenzal).	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gastro Enteritis.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Totals.	70	1	11	22	27	2	-	5	-	2	-	1	1	-

DISINFECTION AFTER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The method employed with regard to premises was fumigation with formaldehyde gas. Six houses were so treated. Fomites are disinfested in the autoclave by steam.

Tuberculosis.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis). The notification of tuberculosis in the area is efficient, there being no instance of a non-notified tuberculosis death.

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1953.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Years.								
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75 & upwards.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
	-		2		-		-	

SECTION G.

Factories and Workshops.

There was no offence under the Factory Act, 1937 during the year under review. The Sanitary Inspector, working in liaison with H.M. Inspector of Factories, maintained effective supervision of local factories and workshops from the Public Health aspect.

The following is a list of the factories and workshops operating in the district in 1953.

Collieries	-	3.
Opencast Mining Plant	-	3.
Stone Quarries	-	2.
Boot and Clog Repairing	-	2.
Brickworks	-	2.
Joinery	-	5.
Government Radar Station	-	1.

Chief Sanitary Requirements of District.

1. Improvement of Sewage Disposal methods.
2. Conversion of Privy Middens.
3. Increased Water Supply.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

J.S. MATHER.

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR, 1953.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BILLINGE-AND-WINSTANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To the Chairman & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my eighth Annual Report as Sanitary Inspector of your district.

Water Supply.

Throughout the year, a wholesome supply of water was available to the inhabitants. Although consumption has risen due to development, it was not necessary to curtail the supply at any period during the year. Due to bursts on the Opencast Mining Sites, a great quantity of water was lost.

A total of 1,760 houses are now supplied with water, as compared with 1,711 houses in 1952. The daily consumption has increased by 13,000 gallons per day.

Cobmoor Pumping Station was used very little during the year. Only on six days was it necessary to utilise this source.

Sanitary Inspection of Area.

A great improvement took place in the inspection of the district during the first half of the year when an Assistant was appointed, and it is unfortunate that this had to be curtailed owing to him being called up for Military Service.

There still remains in Billinge many stone houses which have good possibilities for renovation if full use is made of the existing legislation. It is becoming increasingly imperative that a systematic survey should be made of all the existing old property in the area.

Efforts were made to continue the policy of converting privy middens, thirty-one being completed during the year. These were done by persuasion, the Council continuing to make a grant of £7 per house where a privy midden was converted to the water carriage system. In no case was it necessary to utilise Section 44 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

At the end of the year, the whole of the district was inspected to ascertain the exact total of privy closets remaining in the area. The total number of ashpits was found to be 196 and the number of closets attached to them was 292. It will be realised that we have still much work to do in this particular sphere.

Sewage Disposal.

No change was made in the method of sewage disposal during the year. The Higher End and the Chapel End area are both treated by a crude system of broad irrigation. The samples taken show that there is pollution in the outfall streams. The Council has appointed Messrs. Ward, Ashcroft & Parkman, Chartered Civil Engineers, to deal with this problem, and two detailed Schemes of Sewage Disposal were prepared.

Public Cleansing.

A regular weekly collection of refuse was well maintained during the year. The average weight per house per week was 54 lbs. which shows a decrease on the average for 1952. Refuse was disposed of at the tip at the rear of Orrell Brick & Tile Works in the Higher End area.

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

The shops were inspected regularly on behalf of the Lancashire County Council and found to be highly satisfactory. It was necessary on two occasions to draw the attention of the Trader to certain minor defects with regard to cleanliness. On re-inspection, it was found that the proverbial warning had been sufficient.

The number of cottage pigs slaughtered during the year was 52 which shows a marked decline from the previous year. Twenty-nine were inspected. No case of tuberculosis was detected.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

C. BROWN.

Sanitary Inspector.